

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 26, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced the filing of a Complaint charging Arif Ali DURRANI with conspiracy to violate the Arms Export Control Act. The Complaint was filed in federal district court in San Diego, California on Friday, September 23, 2005.

According to the Complaint, DURRANI intentionally conspired with other persons to illegally export military aircraft parts from the United States to the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Belgium. The Complaint alleges that the exports included a cockpit canopy panel for the T-38 military aircraft and numerous components of the General Electric J85 turbine jet engine, which powers the F-5 military fighter aircraft.

The Complaint alleges that DURRANI, a Pakistani national, was previously convicted in 1987 of violating the Arms Export Control Act, and that he has been statutorily debarred by the United States government from participating directly or indirectly in the export of defense articles. The Complaint also alleges that DURRANI was ordered deported from the United States. According to the Complaint, however,

one of DURRANI's co-conspirators, Richard Tobey, informed federal law enforcement agents that DURRANI has operated his military parts supply business from Mexico, and that DURRANI used Tobey to locate, purchase, and export military aircraft components from the United States. In August 2005, Tobey pled guilty in San Diego federal court to conspiracy to violate the Arms Export Control Act. As part of his guilty plea, Tobey admitted that, as instructed by DURRANI, he exported a canopy panel for the T-38 aircraft to the United Arab Emirates. The Complaint also details statements by another, unnamed co-conspirator who admitted to federal agents that, at DURRANI's instruction, he exported several J85 turbine jet engine parts to Malaysia and Belgium from Escondido, California.

United States Attorney Lam stated, "The Arms Export Control Act exists to prevent exactly the type of conduct this defendant engaged in."

According to Assistant United States Attorney William Cole, who is prosecuting the case, the government will ask the federal court in Los Angeles to transfer DURRANI to San Diego to face the charge alleged in the Complaint. Cole stated that the Complaint arises from a joint investigation by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

"Today's case marks the third time Durrani has been charged in the United States for different arms trafficking activity. It is testament to the perseverance of ICE agents who, for nearly two decades, have kept close tabs on a man with a history of illegally exporting sensitive U.S. military technology," said Michael Unzueta, Special Agent-in-Charge for ICE investigations in San Diego.

"DCIS protects America's Warfighters by working to ensure defense technology is not stolen by those who could use it against the United States or its allies," said Richard W. Gwin, Special Agent in Charge, Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

ARIF ALI DURRANI is expected to be arraigned on the complaint on September 27, 2005, in federal court in Los Angeles, California.

DEFENDANT

Magistrate Case No. 05 MG 1520

Arif Ali Durrani

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Offenses Against the United States

Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security

Defense Criminal Investigative Service

A Complaint itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.